

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION



2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Benson Nkhoma



The CHRR Annual report is a celebration of our achievements in the year 2021. In it, we share with you the steps we have undertaken to promote human rights and good governance in the country.

The projects we have implemented, the partnerships we have created, the lives we have changed and the foundations we have built for ourselves to continue serving Malawians in the year to come. I am deeply grateful to those who have supported us to reach this far. CHRR continues to progress because of the unwavering support we continue to receive from the communities we serve, public bodies, the media, fellow CSOs, international human rights networks and development partners. I am also deeply thankful to our staff, interns and community volunteers for their enormous efforts, contributions and resilience, even when the odds appeared starkly against us. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our team has registered numerous successes and achievements that are highlighted in this report. These achievements are a testament to the commitment and dedication of the CHRR management and staff as well as our team of district and community volunteers. Looking ahead, I am hopeful that 2022 will be another successful year for CHRR as we continue our journey towards a vibrant Malawi culture, which embraces the values of democracy and human rights.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Michael Kaiyatsa



Last year was arguably one of the most difficult periods in Malawi and for our organisation as we faced unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through it all, CHRR has stuck to its core mission of promoting human rights and good governance. For that, we are extremely grateful to our Board of Trustees, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, and to the unwavering support of our development partners. Your support sustains our critical long-term work, such as our ground-breaking initiative to protect vulnerable groups, such as persons with albinism, LGBTI persons and people accused of witchcraft from attacks, and our long-term initiatives to increase access to and the uptake of sexual and reproductive health services in Machinga and Chikhwawa districts, among other districts. Despite the challenges we faced, CHRR managed to break new ground in the year under review. Our pilot digital rights project helped shed light on emerging human rights challenges in the online sphere while our work on monitoring the implementation citizen engagement framework in World Bank funded projects helped to strengthen our social accountability capacity. Last year, was also special in that CHRR challenged presidential candidates in the fresh presidential election and the new government to place rights and good governance at the top of its agenda. I am proud of everything we have achieved together in the past year, and it is my hope that our staff and volunteers, and all our partners will continue supporting us with the same generosity of spirit and audacious thinking.

Map of Malawi highlighting the 15 districts which we operate from



Chitipa, Karonga and Nkhatabay in the North, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Dowa, Kasungu and Salima in the Centre, Mangochi, Machinga, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Mulanje, and Zomba in the South

WHO ARE WE

The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), one of the leading human rights and good governance non-governmental institutions in Malawi, which was founded in February 1995 as a non-profit organization registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962. CHRR's vision is that of a vibrant Malawi culture which embraces the values of democracy and human rights. CHRR's mission is to contribute towards the protection, promotion and consolidation of good governance by empowering rural and urban communities in Malawi to be aware of and exercise their rights through research, advocacy and networking in order to realize human

OUR OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To mobilise marginalised communities and increase their voice on public policy.
- ✓ To empower rural and urban communities on issues of democracy, good governance, and citizen's rights, roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ To enhance communities capacity to realise as well as define issues relating to community safety.
- ✓ To conduct research on specific human rights as well as publicise policy issues and disseminate finding thereon.
- ✓ To monitor, investigate and document issues of human rights infringement, with particular regard to violations of the same.
- ✓ To provide training to professional and special groups in communities relating to democracy, good governance and human rights.
- ✓ To lobby and advocate for necessary policies and legal reforms
- ✓ To net-work with other organisations espousing similar values and objectives at national , regional, and international levels.
- ✓ To enhance CHRR's organisation capacity for effective and efficient programme delivery.

OUR GOVERNANCE BODY

Mrs. Susan Kaunda

Dr. Paul Munyenembe

Mrs. Auda Msiska

Board Chairperson

Mr.
Benson Nkhoma Somba

Mr.
Undule Mwakasungula

Mrs. Maureen Kondowe

Mr. Levi Msiska



OUR SECRETARIATE



Michael Kaiyatsa- Executive Director

Thandizo Mpwhiyo | Heironimo Mkhwimba | Lydia Mkandawire | Wilfred Mwambira
Tamara Mutyavaviri | Nyatuwe Phiri | Modester Ramundi
Charles Baduya | Love Thole
Christopher Munthali | Washington Manda
Naomi Phiri | Patrick Mwanyonga
Mcpeterson Issa | Evance Mavundu | Elias Mwasanjala
Justin Kambalame | Aliko Sikwese

OUR PROGRAMMES

1. POWER TO YOUTH



Power to You(th) is a partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 3 consortium partners (Rutgers, Sonke and Amref), 2 technical partners (KIT and Choice) and 7 Country Management Teams (CMTs) in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana and Indonesia. The program is being implemented in 7 countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda. In Malawi, 6 partners entered into a consortium to implement the 5-year program (2021 – 2025). The Partners are Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) (Lead partner), Youth Wave (Partner B), Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE), Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRCC), Amref Health Africa and Malawi SRHR Alliance.

The Power to You(th) Consortium believes that change starts in the community and in the power of women and girls being meaningfully included in decisions. This Process is essential in achieving change on harmful traditional practices, gender-based violence as well as unintended pregnancies. Hence, the slogan “Change starts with you, change starts with youth!”

The overall strategic objective of the project is to contribute to more adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) from underserved communities being meaningfully included in all decision-making regarding harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies.

2. COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION



CHRR received a 12 month grant from Commonwealth Foundation to address the involvement of vulnerable groups in terms of reaching them with tailor made information on COVID-19. Areas of implementation covered by this grant are Salima district under the community of T/A Khombeza and T/A Kalonga and in Lilongwe district under the community of T/A Chiseka and T/A Kalolo. The Project title is Strengthening Community Involvement and Access to Relevant COVID-19 Information in.

This project seeks to address the issue of lack of information around COVID-19 and the need to be vaccinated amongst vulnerable groups. The main target group for this project are Persons with Disability (PWD) focusing more on people with visual and hearing impairment and Person's living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA).

The total budget for the overall project is 30, 000 Euros (MK 28 Million) utilized from the period beginning August 2021 to August 2022 split between Lilongwe and Salima District.

Budget covers implementation activities, salaries and printing of material.

3. OXFAM

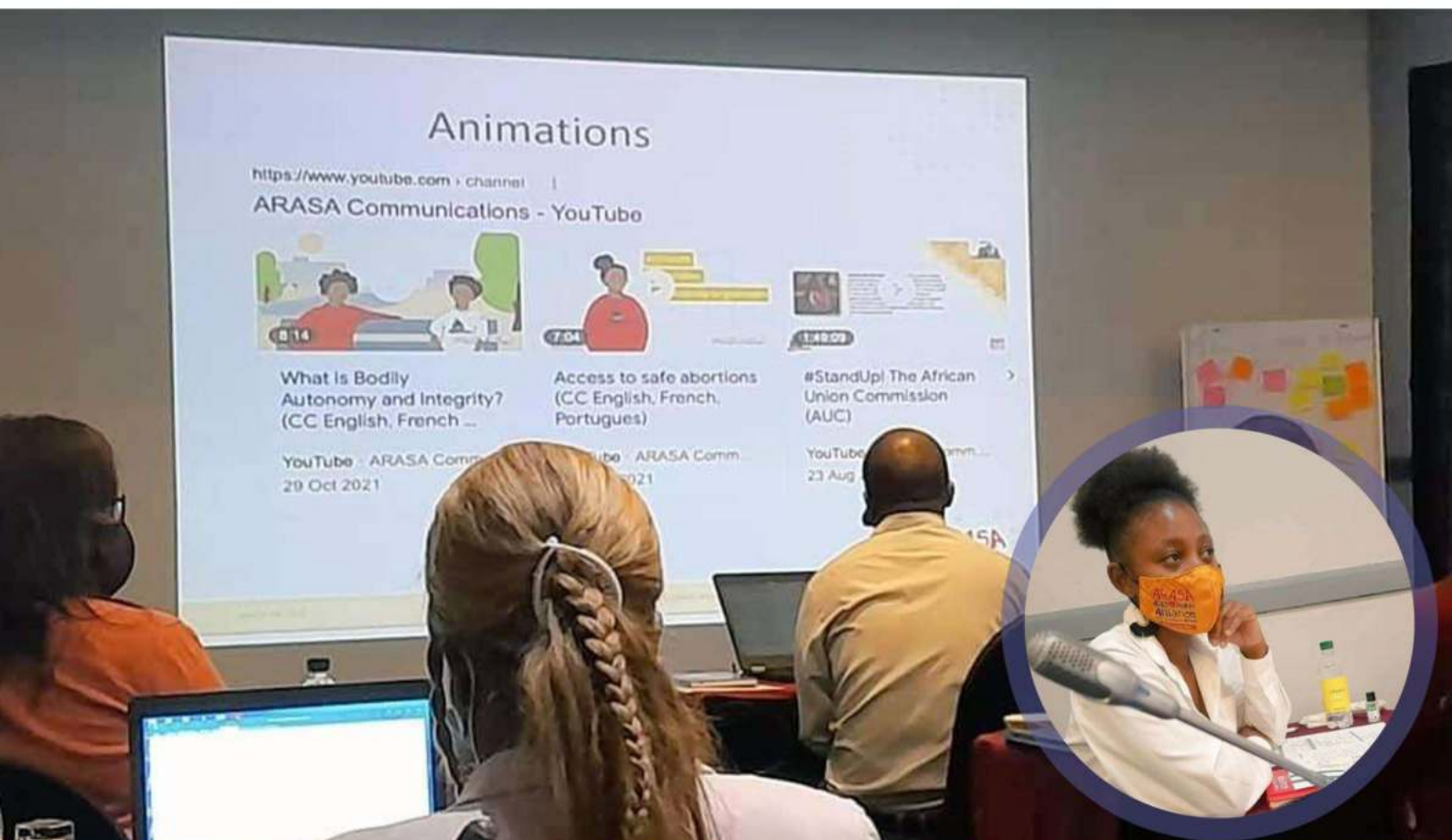


Community members, more especially vulnerable groups progressively enjoy the right to health through demanding equitable health services from duty bearers. Specific objectives: To enhance the capacity of community members (especially people living with HIV and AIDS, women and youth) to demand effective, transparent and accountable services pertaining to their right to health; To enhance the capacity of community structures, including health facility advisory committees, to facilitate the demand for access to equitable health services; To enhance transparency, accountability and responsiveness of health service providers in the targeted districts. Implementation is in T.As Kyungu, Kayembe and Chakhaza in Karonga and Dowa.

4. ARASA

The Bodily Autonomy and Integrity project in Malawi is a 2-year project seeking to advocate for improved access to Sexual Reproductive Health services and an enabling legal environment for all especially Key Populations (KP's) in Malawi. It is funded by the AIDS and Rights Alliance in Southern Africa (ARASA) and began running in September 2020 and will phase out in July 2022.

The BAI program has five pillars that include Universal Health Coverage, SRHR, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE), Safe Abortion and HIV&AIDS prevention. As a project majorly focused on national advocacy, there are no specific impact areas although stakeholders have been targeted in Blantyre, Mzimba, Kasungu, Dedza, Dowa and Lilongwe. So far, the project has worked with over 92 religious and traditional leaders on SRHR sensitive issues, collaborated with 37 CSOs including LGBTI-led institutions, 10 media houses, contributed to a scale-up of PrEP from 10 to 73 facilities nationwide, increased the support of the Termination of Pregnancy (ToP) Bill from Members of Parliament (MPs) through contributory efforts from 39 to 79 by March 2021 and also worked with 4 UN agencies. It has also positively impacted 18 Ministry of Health (MoH) officials who have advocated for the increase in the number of access points for commodities and supplies for KP's, 5 government officials whose perception towards BAI issues especially on the gaps in LSE especially on SOGIE, Age of Consent and inclusiveness. The BAI program has also had a positive return in that 100 gatekeepers are training their peers on the ToP Bill.



5. STEPHEN LEWIS



CHRR continued implementing a project on the promotion of the rights of women living with HIV and AIDS with financial support from Stephen Lewis Foundation. The project was being implemented in Lilongwe Rural and in Salima districts. The project's aim was to achieve a reduction in practices which discriminate and violate the human rights of women living with HIV & AIDS in the targeted districts of Salima and Lilongwe.

6. BOTH ENDS



CHRR and International Accountability Project (IAP) with support from Both Ends, were implementing a project in Salima based on the construction of the Salima Solar Project, the aim of the project was to assess the impact of the project on the community and empower the community to demand for their rights.

7. WILLIAM AND FLORAH HEWLETT FOUNDATION



The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) in partnership with Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) is implementing a two years project “From Disclosure to Impact: Deepening and Broadening Open Contracting in Africa/Malawi” funded by William and Flora Hewlette Foundation. The project seeks to promote performance of public contracts in targeted sectors (of health and education) with focus on improving value for money, service delivery, fair business practices as well as addressing fraud, collusion and corruption in public contracting. Further, to promote access and use of public information in key sectors and thematic areas in order to improve service delivery thereby enhancing peoples’ lives across. The project is being implemented in Lilongwe and Salima and has since registered encouraging stories, for example, a public institution “Salima Technical College” saw an increase in number of local suppliers participating in bidding following training procurement officers attended as part of the Project, as well as reduced costs in goods hence making savings. Communities in Linthipe and Mtondo in TA Pemba Salima are holding their duty bearers to account on local development projects, as a result of attending training on access to information and contract monitoring.

8.MUNAKATA FOUNDATION

To promote a safe and secure environment for LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers living at and around Dzaleka Refugee Camp. Specific objectives of the project is to: To improve access to services, including nutrition, health and security for LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers; To enhance responsiveness of refugee authorities and duty bearers to challenges facing LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers and To enhance networking and collaboration with organisations working within the camp. This project's main aim is to improve quality of life for LGBTI refugees and asylum seekers. Implementing partners are UNHCR, Plan Malawi and CEDEP.

9.DIGITAL RIGHTS AND INTERNET FREEDOM IN MALAWI



The Digital Rights and Internet Freedom in Malawi is an initiative of the Digital Rights Coalition Malawi, aimed at promoting and protecting digital rights and internet freedom in Malawi. This comes at a time when people, businesses, and governments are increasingly communicating, transacting, and accessing information and services online. Despite this global trend Malawi's digital technology absorption is minimal; grappling with poor ICT infrastructure, high cost of internet, internet illiteracy, limited public knowledge of Digital Rights, and limited legal and policy framework on data privacy and security, limited public knowledge on cyber safety and security. Currently, the initiative has developed a draft advocacy strategy for a Digital Rights and Internet Freedom Bill in Malawi. The initiative is being hosted by Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation as secretariat.

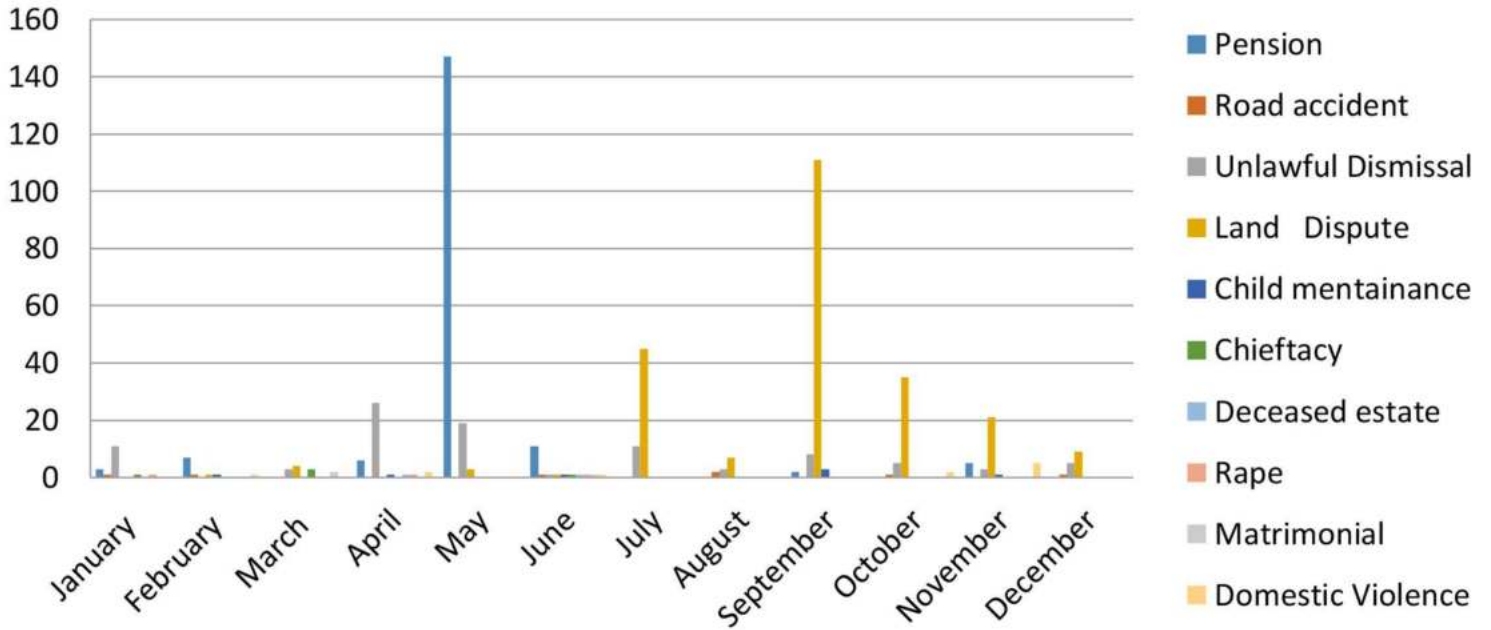


The loss of Mr Masanjala has left a void within the CHRR family, May the memories of his wonderful personality and many contributions be celebrated by all. Mr Masanjala will forever be in our hearts and memories.

Rest In Peace Mr Masanjala

PARALEGAL DEPARTMENT

CASES RECEIVED EACH MONTH



OUR PARTNERS – PARTNER LOGOS



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